AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Whenever you hear a man dissuading you from attempting to do well on the ground that perfection is "Utopian," beware of that man.—Ruskin.

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WHOLE NO. 1217 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1934 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 24, NO. 32

COMPULSORY MEMBERSHIP IN COMPANY UNION HELD ILLEGAL BY LABOR BOARD

Orders Tamaqua Underwear Officials to Reinstate 61 Members of Clothing Workers' Union Who Were Fired Because They Refused to Join Fake Labor Union.

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board, in a unanimous decision signed by Chairman Lloyd Garrison, Edwin S. Smith and Harry A. Mills, ordered the Tamaqua Underwear Co. of Tamaqua, Pa., to reinstate 61 members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, who were discharged because they refused to join the company union promoted by the firm.

According to the record in the case, a majority of the employes of the Tamaqua company, at an election held June 20 under the direction of the Philadelphia Regional Labor Board, voted in favor of the company union.

In its decision the Labor Board criticized company officials and company union leaders. "A collective bargaining agreement which provides merely for the closed shop," the board said, "is an oddity in the annals of industrial relations."

Section 7-A Quoted

Pointing out that Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act provides that "no employe and no one seeking employment shall be required as a condition of employment to join any company union," the board said the sole question before it was whether the Tamaqua employes' union "is a company union within the intent of Section 7-A."

Compulsory Membership Imposed

According to the board's history of the case, the following agreement was signed on June 5 by Dr. Auchmuty for the company and Allison L. Hallman, president of the company union:

"It is hereby agreed that the Tamaqua Underwear Co. agrees to recognize the demand of the Tamaqua employes' union for a closed shop, beginning June 22, 1934."

The board added:

"On June 25, the Monday following the elections, when the 66 members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (affiliated with the A. F. of L.) came as usual to work, they were told by Dr. Auchmuty that they would be refused their old posts unless they joined the company union. This 61 of them have not done and are accordingly denied employment by the company."

Bosses Fostered Union

Although the board did not attempt to decide "the validity of a closed shop agreement with a bona fide labor union," the decision held that "the hands which guided the organization of this union were those of employers who were in an executive or supervisory capacity, and its present destines are controlled not by the female stitchers and cutters, of which almost the entire membership is composed, but by an assistant floor lady, Mrs. Evans; a comparatively well-paid machinist, Hallman, and a male employe of the shipping department."

"If Dr. Auchmuty did not initiate the union," the board said, "he has at least fostered its growth with considerable enthusiasm by advising his employes to affiliate therewith and by permitting it to use the plant for meetings and his office equipment for certain typing."

The board found "improper" that "the organizers of the union negotiated the closed shop agreement without, it seems, consulting the membership, and obtained the consent of Dr. Auchmuty without debate or deliberation."

The board gave the company 10 days to reinstate the 61 discharged employes to the same rights as previously enjoyed.

Muenzenberg, Masked As An Anti-Fascist, Is Communist Agitator, Green Declares

Warns Labor Organizations Against Contributing Funds to "Institute for the Study of Fascism"

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement issued from the Federation's headquarters in Washington, declares that Willi Muezenberg, well-known European Communist agitator, is masking his communistic activities by establishing in the United States a branch of his so-called "Committee for the Victims of Hitler Fascism," whose head office is in Paris, France, but which is suspected of using its funds for the advancement of Communism.

Mr. Green especially warned labor organizations against making any contributions to Mueuzenberg's committee, which, he said, was planning an appeal for funds, with the churches singled out as good prospects.

The text of Mr. Green's statement, which was sent to all Central Bodies and State Federations of Labor, follows:

"Information has come to me from a reliable source, the authenticity of which cannot be questioned, regarding further Communistic activities. I quote herein an excerpt from the statement I have received:

Hides Communism Under Neutrality

"'The well-known publisher and Communist agitator, Willi Muenzenberg, has opened headquarters in Paris where he is ofering his services under various neutral names and firms. He has also organized a Paris office of the Comite pour les victimes du Fascism Hitlerien (Committee for the victims of Hitler Fascism), which is internationally known as the Lord Morley Committee.

"'The committee is allegedly nonpartisan and collects funds for the support of the victims of Hitlerism. Requests for support are denied, however. Its international officers are Lord Morley, chairman; Professor Francis Jourdain, treasurer; Havelock Ellis, Henry Barbusse, Ernst Toller and other internationally known names.

Fake Committee to Study Fascism

"'The committee has an American branch office in New York under the name of "National Committee to Aid Victims of German Fascism." Its address is 870 Broadway. Its chairman is A. J. Muste.

"'Another similar institution is the Institut pour l'etude du Fascism (Institute for the Study for Fascism). Its abbreviated name is INFA. The institute and its bulletins conduct themselves as non-partisan, but they are, according to the International Federation of Trade Unions, only other organizational examples of the Muenzenberg type. The institute intends to approach all American labor organizations affiliated with the A. F. of L., for the purpose of collecting funds for its anti-Fascist activities.'"

"As you doubtless noticed from the press reports," Mr. Green's statement continued, "Mr. Muenzenberg addressed a Communist mass meeting at Madison Square Garden, New York, on July 5. He has become very active in Communistic activities. I am advised that he and his agents, one of whom is Louis Gibarti, are now planning to appeal to the American churches for funds.

New Money-Raising Scheme

"I quote further from the report to me:

"'Since the Communists have been unable to collect large funds in the European countries, they are now trying to raise money under the guise of neutrality. Europe being what it is today, they have decided to concentrate on the United States. Meunzenberg is the right man for this job. He knows how to use the mask of neutrality.

Opposes Trade Unions

"'His work is directed not so much against Hitler and Fascism, but mainly against the bona fide trade unions and the Socialist parties which he labels as Social-Fascists. Muenzenberg's methods are infamous and have done enormous harm to the cause of German labor. His unscrupulous fight against organized labor as well as his activities in the International Red Help are a matter of record.'"

Ban on Contributions

"I am passing the above information on to you," Mr. Green concluded, "so that your central body, having this information in advance, will be prepared to deal with any proposals made by Mr. Muenzenberg or any of his agents. I strongly urge that your central body shall have nothing whatever to do with any proposals made by Mr. Muenzenberg or his agents."

Alabama Labor Federation Defends Democracy and Praises A. F. of L.

Consecration to the underlying principles of American freedom and democracy and 100 per cent support of the American Federation of Labor were expressed by the recent annual convention of the Alabama State Federation held at Mobile, Ala. The resolution said:

"We, the members of the Alabama State Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, hereby reaffirm our faith in the fundamental principles of American freedom and democracy. We again declare our adherence to the original ideals of the founders and father of this Republic. We still hold that the only true government is that of the people, for the people, and by the people.

"With all our strength, we will uphold our national constitution, that guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and the right of peaceable assemblage to redress manifest wrongs.

"For these reasons, we view with alarm the rise in Europe of reactionary forms of government. We condemn all political systems that means a return to the Dark Ages. We extend our sympathy to the innocent victims of religious and racial persecution. We also offer cooperation to our brothers in organized labor who have felt the ruthless hand of tyranny in Europe.

"We also pledge loyalty to the American Federation of Labor and our splendid leader, William Green, in his valiant fight with other liberals to oppose the introduction into this free land of the subversive ideas of European autocracy.

"We are determined to keep this nation as the land of the free and the home of the brave, to uphold the immortal Declaration of Independence in its God-given mandate that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Ban on Firemen's Union Will Cost Atlantic City AFL 1935 Convention

Atlantic City, N. J.—The arbitrary refusal of Mayor Bacharach of Atlantic City to permit municipal firemen to organize as a local union of the International Association of Fire Fighters, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, if persisted in, will cost this popular resort the 1935 convention of the A. F. of L., according to a decision of the Federation's Executive Council in session here. The arbitrary action of the Mayor was brought to the attention of the Council by Fred Baer, president of the Association.

William Green, president of the A. F. of L., said the Executive Council was surprised to learn that the Mayor had taken the position "that any group of municipal employes should be denied the right to organize into a union of their choice and to enjoy the rights and privileges of Section 7-A the same as workers in private industry."

"The action of Mayor Bacharach can only be interpreted as a violation of the constitutional rights of the workers to organize for mutual protection," Mr. Green declared. He said he would notify Mayor Bacharach of the Council's decision against holding the next convention in Atlantic City so long as the Mayor opposed allowing firemen to join the International Fire Fighters' Union.

He explained that it was a well-understood policy that firemen, letter carriers, postal clerks and railway mail clerks affiliated with the Federation would not go on strike to enforce their requests, but would use all other legitimate means to impress their views on their employers.

BAN ON HARRIMAN MILLS IS ASKED BY A. F. OF L.

Executive Council Urges Johnson to Repudiate Glancy's Act in Restoring Blue Eagle to Concern Which the NRA Found Guilty of Discriminating Against Union Employes.

Atlantic City, N. J.—A. R. Glancy, NRA divisional compliance representative, who recently restored the Blue Eagle to the Harriman Hosiery Mills, Harriman, Tenn., was strongly condemned by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in session here. Glancy's settlement at the time it was made public received the condemnation of the Harriman's striking employes, the Labor Advisory Board of the NRA and of President Green of the A. F. of L.

The Council instructed Mr. Green to demand of General Johnson, Recovery Administrator, that the Blue Eagle be withdrawn, and that the case be transferred to Divisional Administrator George L. Berry, president of the Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union, for handling.

Formal action on the Harriman case was taken by the Executive Council after Mr. Green had made a complete report of the issues in the controversy, which began last Fall in the company's plant at Harriman, Tenn., when some 700 employes went on strike after the alleged refusal of the company to bargain collectively with a committee of unionized employes.

The Executive Council unanimously endorsed the work of Mr. Green in the case, and criticized the restoration of the Blue Eagle by Mr. Glancy several weeks ago. It charged that although Major Berry had received authority to negotiate a settlement with the strikers, Mr. Glancy had intervened and had arranged an unsatisfactory agreement with the company without General Johnson's authority, and without consulting Major Berry.

Test of Section 7-A

Mr. Green, in announcing the Executive Council's decision, said the Harriman case was considered by organized labor as a test of Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act. He added:

"Labor now demands that General Johnson repudiate the action of Mr. Glancy. Labor demands that the agreement under which Major Berry was given full authority to settle the controversy be carried out, and that the Blue Eagle be removed until the company complies with the collective bargaining provision of Section 7-A of the Recovery Act.

"I am directed by the Council to present the matter to General Johnson on his return and to call on him, accompanied by Major Berry and others, so that the unauthorized action of Mr. Glancy may be repudiated.

"As soon as General Johnson returns and we can meet with him, we will present our protest. We consider this a test case, which will show whether or not the Blue Eagle may be restored to a company that has refused to bargain collectively, as provided in Section 7-A of the Recovery Act."

After the departure of General Johnson for the West, he said, Mr. Glancy negotiated "some sort of settlement" with the company, which allegedly provided for the return of 25 strikers and the creation of a preferential list. Then, he added, Mr. Glancy agreed to restore the Blue Eagle "without consulting Major Berry, the strikers or the union officers."

WAGES

Editor's Note.—For a considerable period the Union of Post Office Workers of Great Britain has endeavored to persuade the British Postmaster General to increase the wages of post office employes. Mr. Francis Andrews, editor of The Post, the union's official organ, in an editorial on "Wages" gives the following analysis of the necessity of higher wages for post office workers in particular and for working men and women generally.

By FRANCIS ANDREWS
Editor, The Post, Organ of the British Union of Post Office Workers

Post office people, as a whole, do not get enough pay to escape embarrassment and worry, while many of them are miserably poor. Indeed so many of them are poor that to be their chief can bring no satisfaction. The coldness of official papers cannot disguise, nor can official courtesies hide these human factors for long.

An impersonal calculagraph philosophy with regard to living men and women may have its uses; but in the end, wages, bread and butter, rooftrees and rent have to be spoken of face to face, and the story they tell has to be told in simple English. It is to tell that story that our representatives ask to be received. * * *

The arithmetic of a wage issue is a matter of addition, but the philosophy of it is deeper. Our people give the greater part of their lives to work, and concentrate upon it their attention and enthusiasm. **A world like ours, in which poverty is a preventable disease, should offer in return for the service given an adequate and happy existence as far as money goes.**

There is more than that in it. It is not really a case of a gracious gift; it is an economic necessity that the great mass of the people should be buying and consuming.

The highly productive State, with its power to deliver the goods, has no justification whatever unless it can distribute as efficiently as it produces. If that efficiency in production is not used for the betterment of the common life it is being debased to other causes, and in the end must bring disaster upon itself. To all thinking folk that is self-evident.

A wage claim is but the demand that common sense shall prevail. Therefore a wage claim seeks for wider and better distribution of the produce of life. Wider and better distribution is everywhere demanded. It is not because of crises that wage claims should be refused, but to prevent crises that they should be conceded.

Is it not true that if the people of Britain had shared steadily, and step by step, in the advancing prosperity throughout the years of industrial development, the whole world would have developed differently, and that no money crisis would have arisen? That seems a sweeping question, but it is in accord with ascertainable history.

EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS BLOCK 40-HOUR WEEK TO PROVIDE WORK FOR JOBLESS

Editor's Note.—W. R. Townley, General President of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives of Great Britain, was one of the Labor representatives to the recent International Labor Conference at Geneva, which included in its agenda the shorter work week as a method of providing jobs for the unemployed in every nation awliated with the League of Nations. The following excerpt from Mr. Townley's report to his own organization emphatically points out the subversive attitude taken on shorter hours by most employers whose Governments are represented in the International Conference.

By W. R. TOWNLEY
General President National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives

The first question, and the one which attracted most attention, was that of the reduction of hours of work. The interest which it aroused throughout the world has certainly not decreased since the time when it was first reviewed. As a possiblity of arriving at a Convention for a 40-hour working week, extensive preparatory work had been carried out in collecting evidence and data to assist the Conference in arriving at positive conclusions.

Arguments Against 40-Hour Week

The opening discussion on this question, before reaching the Committee stage, revealed the strong opposition of several of the employers' delegates to such a change in the reducing working hours.

The main points presented by them can be summarized as follows: They had very strong doubts as to its remedy for the improvement of employment. There was the fear that certain industries might experience financial difficulties and even be obliged to close down, owing to the inevitable increase in cost of production. Other industries will suffer from a smaller demand, and the measure would thus create unemployment. There was also the increase in the cost of production. This increase will be greater if the weekly earnings are maitained and would seriously affect selling prices, even in the most favourable cases, if the hourly wages remained unshanged. The increased cost of production will lead to further rationalization and mechanization to satisfy the demand at a cost price as low as possible by avoiding costly labor. No case had been proved that it would have a good economic effect by increasing earnings and the total purchasing power of the population. In such circumstances one may wonder what would be the use of the proposed measure.

Arguments in Favor of 40-Hour Week

The workers' case was presented by speakers from several countries, briefly as follows: Employers of labor have failed to recognize the evolution which has taken place in every industry. In 1919 at Washington, when the employers were confronted with limitation of hours, the declarations made by them were exactly in the same spirit as they are today. The argument employers raise as to the increase in costings is an old one.

"I can refer you," said the French Trade Union delegate, "to figures relating to my own country which have been prepared by employers organizations. They show that in the blast furnaces and foundries wages represent 25 per cent of costs, and that a reduction of hours to forty would mean an increase in cost of only 5.16 per cent. Take the figures from the French meallurgucal industry (174 undertakings) which show that between June, 1932, and July, 1933, there was an increase of 28 per cent in production, but only a reduction of 0.8 per cent in labor strength."

Labor Is Always Condemned

Arthur Hayday's final words are worth repeating, when he said: "The workers, whether they beg, plead, or demand, are condemned. If we plead, we are told we are weak-kneed and have no case. If we appeal, we are told that the power of our organization is not strong enough to enforce the appeal. If we demand, then we are told that it is against all constitutional methods. But there is bound to be an end to this insistent demand, and my final words here are that failure at Geneva will only intensify the struggle, particularly in Great Britain." * * *

Numbers Prevail Against Reason

I have been sitting in this Committee for the past 10 days, with sixteen other Labour representatives from various Nationals, striving to get a scheme worthy of acceptance to deal with the evils of unemployment. My experience has been that we have to struggle against numbers rather than reasons. The employers and government delegates generally combined to outvote us in our efforts to get embodied many of the principles of our Unemployment Act established. We have to find consolation in the fact that if our Draft is accepted it will be a beginning of national responsibility for unemployment in a number of countries."

Strong Union Organization Is Necessary For Labor Union New Deal, Duffy Says

The necessity of accompanying the advantages for labor secured from the codes of fair competition, established under the National Industrial Recovery Act, with more thorough organization of the workers in bona fide trade unions was stressed by James F. Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, in an address before the Brotherhood's recent annual convention at Atlantic City, N. J.

He gave the New Deal credit for certain improved conditions which working men and women had secured but warned that it would not bring the millenium. The workers, he said, should not use the favorable conditions the New Deal had created as an excuse for relaxing their organization activities. To do so, he asserted, would be a most serious and regrettable mistake.

"You are not going to get what you want under the New Deal without putting up a big fight for it," he added, and urged that a militant policy be maintained by all crafts.

Mr. Duffy was, however, careful to define that by such a policy he did not mean putting on the war paint or swinging tomahawks, not that at all. "I mean," he said, "that you display that kind of militancy which is foundationed and motivated by intelligence, common sense and reason, and none other than that." He said there would be more need for organization in the future than in the past, and urged that there be no relaxation anywhere.

GAS MERGERS ARE HIT BY UTILITY WORKERS

New England Council Opposes Scheme to Close Local Plants and Give Monopoly to Massachusetts Gas Company.

Pelham, N. H.—The first annual convention of the New England Council of Public Utilities held here, attended by delegates from New England and visiting delegates from the Middle West, strongly opposed the scheme of the Massachusetts Gas Co. to supply gas to the cities of Cambridge and Worcester, Mass., from the company's consolidated plant at Everett. The delegates believed the proposal was the beginning of shrewdly conceived plans to create a monopoly of gas distribution in the State, which would close up local plants, with loss of employment to hundreds of workers.

It was claimed that those back of the proposed gas monopoly are already directing the affairs of the New England Power Company, which has scrapped many local power plants and furnishes power generated at Bellows Falls.

The convention approved the vertical system of unions and favored effecting a working combination with the United Mine Workers of America. A special representative of the Mine Workers was present to explain how the gas workers would come under the jurisdiction of the miners' union. It was claimed by those sponsoring the combination that in New England power is a by-product of coal, and that, therefore, gas workers are in the same group as coal workers.

FLAT GLASS WORKERS RECEIVE AFL CHARTER

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, during its Fall session here, granted a charter to the Federation of Flat Glass Workers of Pittsburgh, Pa. The organization has 12,000 members with Glenn W. McCabe as president.

William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in explaining the action of the Council, said the charter was granted when the Window Glass Cutters' League of America, an organization of about 1,000 highly skilled workers, refused to accept as members the group organized by Mr. McCabe. The old organization, it was said, has a closed shop agreement with employers and its members hand on their skill from father to son and have insisted that they would only take into their organization sons of the members.

A VALUABLE LABOR YEAR BOOK

By American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service

Lots of educational material on a wide variety of labor subjects make the Official Year Book of the Colorado State Federation of Labor and Affiliated Organizations for 1934 a valuable compendium for all labor officials and others who desire up-to-date information regarding the labor movement and the New Deal in that State, coupled with considerable labor propaganda of a general character.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, contributes a well-considered article on the necessity and practicability of the 30-hour week as a method to provide jobs for hundrends of thousands of the unemployed. C. B. Noxon, president of the Colorado State Federation of Labor writes informatively of the progress of trade union organization in Colorado.

The NRA in Colorado is thoroughly discussed by John E. Gross, secretary-treasurer of the Colorado State Federation of Labor. Inez J. Lewis writes an interesting account of the adult educational program in Colorado, and S. W. Johnson, president of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, gives the creditable record of the increased strength of labor unions in that city during the past year.

On the question of war debts, Edward J. Yetter, president of the Colorado MManufacturers and Merchants Association tells why they should be paid in full to the United States . The work of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in Colorado is instructively considered by Alice E. Van Diest. James Brownlow, Representative in the United States Congress from Colorado, stresses many needed reforms in laws affecting labor.

The forward position of organized labor on the question of public education is emphasized in an instructive article by Ralph L. Crosman, Professor of Journalism in the University of Colorado, and R. E. Lowderback, secretary of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, contributes a well-informed article on the results of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Jay M. Osborn concludes the battery of contributed articles with a terse account of the ancient origin of the the restaurant industry.

The labor, business and social advantages of Pueblo, where the first convention of the State Federation was held in 1896 and also the 1934 convention, are interestingly described.

There is also a directory of the labor organizations of Colorado, and a list of the officers of the State Federation of Labor.

The president, secretary-treasurer, and the nine vice-presidents of the Colorado State Federation of Labor deserve commendation not only for the educational contents of the Year Book, but also for its excellent set up and for their ability in securing such a generous list of advertising patrons.

Green Blames Employers for Army Of Over Ten Million Unemployed

A. F. of L. Chief Warns of Labor's Unrest — Visions Social Control of Means of Production Unless Those Who Own and Control Industry Reorganize It On the Basis of Jobs for All Workers.

Atlantic City, N. J.—In a statement issued immediately prior to the opening of the Fall session of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor here, William Green, president of the Federation, warned the owners of industry that unless they called off the national lockout which has thrown millions into the unemployed army and reorganized business on the basis of re-employment of the jobless, society may be compelled to take over the means of production as the only method by which hours can be reduced and work provided for the ten millions now idle.

Unemployment Is Main Question

"Unemployment is still the outstanding problem before us," Mr. Green said. "The discussions of the Executive Council will emphasize the need for prompt and decisive action in dealing with this problem. The latest figures indicate that there are still more than ten million unemployed.

"Despite the increase of employment due to the NRA and to the expenditures of vast relief funds the slack in unemployment is not being taken up rapidly enough. Many millions are on public relief rolls. While relief is a necessity, continued dependence upon public funds for food and shelter is sapping the initiative, morale and sturdy qualities of our American manhood. Work is what men crave and work is what they must have.

Employers Refuse Work to Idle

"Private industry has lagged in the task of increasing employment. There is a steady demand for goods. Prices are going up. Profits for private industry are in sight. The banks are bulging with deposits and credits are ample and available to prime the pump of business activity. Why then the delay? Surely industry is not imbued with a feeling of defeat at a time when it can swiftly carry our nation to the beginning of a decided revival.

"With our vast resources, our abounding technique, our efficient management, and our tremendous home market, surely industry would not sell America short.

Industrial Leaders Condemned

"Are our captains of industry only fair-weather leaders? Have they, too, been affected by public relief? Has the RFC dole and the other subsidies to industry so broken down their much-vaunted initiative that our industrialists are without enough ambition to plan now to fight their way out?

"Are the sons of the pioneers who constructed the American railroads, who harnessed the waterfalls and who built up the greatest productive machine in the history of the world ready to capitulate to the absentee ownership and control of bankers far removed from the honest sweat of factory, mill and mine management?

Jobless Problem Licks Employers

"Surely our industrialists cannot confess that the problem of unemployment has them licked. If they capitulate, now that the bankers, too, have shown their incapacity, who will keep our industrial machines going? Who will turn out the shoes, clothing and goods required to keep our population alive and comfortable? Our toilers in the mills, stores and places of employment can be depended upon to stick to their tasks if they are permitted access to the machines. But who will direct them if our business men capitulate?

Government Operation of Industry Looms

"Will it be necessary for society to take over the means of production? Will the Government be forced, because of industry's failure, to invite the eager and willing workers to march into the idle shops and throw the levers of the machines that will again pour out the endless amount of goods our people require? And will the Government muster into service the alert technical and managerial brains that formerly directed the flow of these goods on behalf of the owners of industry? If the owners of industry default in their approach to these problems, abdicate in the presence of this economic crisis, will they not then forfeit their prerogatives and be compelled to stand aside while society itself, for good or evil, makes an attempt to cope with the task?

Crisis Must Be Met

"These are questions which industry itself must ponder now before it is too late. The crisis is on us. A few months more and the opportunity may be lost to us, perhaps forever. Whatever may come, labor will stand on the side of complete utilization of our productive capacities in order that the whole of society may be furnished with essential goods and services."

AFL COUNCIL ISSUES CALL FOR CONVENTION

Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting in San Francisco Will Consider Protecting the Workers' Rights Under the National Recovery Act.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in session here, issued the call for the fifty-fourth annual convention of the Federation, which will convene in San Francisco on October 1. The call emphasized the necessity of giving serious consideration to measures for the protection of the rights of the workers set forth in the National Industrial Recovery Act, but which in many instances have become mere paper rights.

"Labor has reached the point," the call said, "where it can with a fair degree of accuracy appraise the value of the NRA and give proper consideration to the results which have been achieved through the organization and application of industrial codes of fair practice in numerous industries.

"Experience has shown that, notwithstanding the plain provisions of Section 7-A of the NRA, workers have been prevented from exercising the right to organize and to engage in collective bargaining through representatives of their own choosing. Workers have been compelled to resort to the use of strike measures in order to force employers to concede the exercise of a right guaranteed them by law.

"The labor movement must make real, vital and operative the provisions of Section 7-A so that every right accorded the workers to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing may be exercised and enjoyed to the fullest extent."

AFL WILL ORGANIZE NEW HUDSON UNION

Bolt of Detroit Local Attributed to Company Union Promoters

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, holding its Fall meeting here, were not seriously ruffled by the announcement of the withdrawal from the A. F. of L. of the Hudson Motor Co. federal labor union in Detroit. The union will be reorganized and efforts increased to organize workers throughout the entire automotive field. From authentic reports received from Detroit the Council was convinced that the withdrawal was engineered in a plan to get the automobile workers into a company union.

"We are not put out by the action taken in Detroit," declared William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in announcing the Federation's attitude, toward the Hudson group of automobile workers. He added:

"These things have happened before. Some time ago the St. Louis local of automobile workers left the Federation and then returned a short time later.

"It is an exaggeration to say that there are 7,000 members in the Hudson local. The number is far less than that. Prompt steps will be taken to reorganize the union so that it may again be affiliated with the Federation.

"There has been talk of a company union move in the direction of the Hudson employes and we know what is going on. The automobile workers still desire to organize and affiliate with the Federation. No efforts will be spared to see to it that their legitimate wishes are granted."

HOURS OF LABOR

By GEORGE W. THOMSON
Editor, The Draughtsman, Organ of the British Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen

The prolonged inactivity of large sections of every industrial population has had the curious effect of workpeople making economic demands in a period of depression, rather than, in the usual industrial idiom, making them in periods of prosperity.

The demands for shorter hours are being made at once as a measure of spreading employment instead of concentrating employment in few hands and leaving a large mass constantly unemployed, and also because workpeople to an increasing extent are coming to believe that improvements in business and industrial technique ought to result in their sharing the advantages along with others of the population.

One of these advantages is leisure for recreation, for study and for the enjoyment of those things which largely constitute civilization. Unfortunately in the consideration of the 40-Hour Week Convention by the International Labor Conference at Geneva, the British Government seems always to be opposed to any claim of this description and to side with its masters, the employers, who, like the Bourbons of old, seem to forget nothing and to learn nothing.

Even enlightened employers like Lord Trent, in whose factory the five-day week of 40 hours has been instituted, evidently with success, thinks this a matter for the industries themselves rather than for governmental decree in fulfillment of international conventions. **But progress has always come in double harness, when enlightenment has experimented; and compulsion has been laid upon the backward.**

The claim for shortening hours is overwhelming.

Ladies' Garment Workers Win Strike in Montreal

Montreal, Canada.—Two thousand members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union here won their strike in an agreement with employers which calls for wage increases of 10 per cent to those paid by the week and 20 per cent to piece workers. In addition the workers will now have a 48-hour week and time and a half for overtime with a maximum overtime of six hours a week. There are still 1,000 members of the union on strike.

Negotiations between employers and representatives of the 4,000 members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union of America continued, while the men's clothing factories affected continued to be picketed.

ORNBURN IS SECRETARY OF UNION LABEL TRADES

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor selected Ira M. Ornburn, president of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, to act as secretary of the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L. until the October convention of the department elects a successor to the late John J. Manning.